

# HOOSIER HEROINES:

## Eliza Blaker

By: Peace Green

The Hoosier woman who I admire the most is Eliza Blaker. Eliza Blaker is a great role model to everyone because of her contribution to education and to teachers. Eliza Blaker founded the Teacher's College and was in charge of the free kindergarten movement.

Eliza Blaker was born on March 5, 1854 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and died on December 4, 1926 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Eliza Blaker admired the Quaker life and her father's beliefs. After her father died her family went through a financial situation. Even though her family was going through a financial struggle her mother still insisted that she gets an education. So, her mother enrolled Eliza in Girls Normal School in Philadelphia.

Eliza Blaker got married and moved her family to Indianapolis. The Free Kindergarten and Children's Aid Society members offered her the opportunity to be in charge of the free kindergarten program. Eliza Blaker dreamed of a system of kindergartens that would support poor families and she also believed in equal education for all no matter who you are. She believed everyone deserves the right to an education. Eliza Blaker believed that the most important work of teachers and parents was character training.

Eliza Blaker's philosophy combined the training in habits and morals which helped the development of the American identity. Eliza Blaker was a humanist who was concerned of the traditional ideas of child teachings and discipline. Eliza Blaker was interested in new theories, but she believed that practice is more important than theories.

Kindergartens were successful under Eliza Blaker's leadership. Soon Eliza Blaker started to educate teachers from her very own home and the classes soon developed into the Teacher College of Indianapolis. Eliza Blaker started the classes with only a few students, but soon she started teaching over 30,000 students. After Eliza Blaker's death the Teacher College of Indianapolis became a part of Butler University.

Eliza Blaker started out as a smart girl with hopes and dreams who admired different people such as her father who too also had dreams and believed in things that were right for all people no matter who you are. Her father's words touched Eliza Blaker in a way that would turn Eliza Blaker into a wonderful person that she is today.

Eliza Blaker inspired many with her dreams and beliefs for what is right and how she helped other people achieve their dreams. Even though Eliza Blaker's family was going through a financial struggle, Eliza Blaker still followed her dreams and beliefs and thrived to help people who families were poor. When Eliza Blaker believed in something she followed through and she achieved that dream. The Free Kindergarten members and the Children Aid Society were right to choose Eliza Blaker as their supervisor because she helped so many people and inspired them to do right in the world.

That is why I admire Eliza Blaker, a Hoosier Heroine, who made a great impact in Indianapolis. Eliza Blaker is a wonderful inspiration to many and is admired by many. Eliza Blaker is a Hoosier Heroine.